

FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL CIRCLE,
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, FOR THE FOREST YEAR 1892-93.

INTRODUCTION.

The Forest year 1892-93 will be a marked year in the annals of the forest history of the Presidency, for the reasons—

First, that under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 8315, dated 22nd October 1892, in the Revenue Department, the old Northern Circle has been divided into two circles, which are called, respectively, the Northern and the Central; the former being placed in charge of Mr. F. R. Dasai, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, while the latter remained in charge of Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade;

Second, that the reorganization of the superior staff of the Forest Department of the Presidency, according to the scheme which had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, was brought into effect during the year, from the 1st April 1892; and

Third, that under orders of the Government of India contained in Government Resolution No. 5506, dated 6th July 1892, a new forest year embracing the period from 1st July to 30th June has been adopted for the preparation and submission of Forest Administration Reports; and consequently, to fit in with this change, the present Administration Report extends over a period of fifteen months, from 1st April 1892 to the 30th June 1893.

2. Forest reservations in the Central Circle have undergone very slight changes, which give a net increase in area of 11 square miles and 314 acres.

3. No settlement work in respect of lands notified under Section 34 of the Forest Act during 1879, remains to be completed in any of the divisions of the Central Circle; but forest and waste lands which have been provisionally notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Forest Act, amounting to 424 square miles and 56 acres, were still undergoing settlement enquiries when the year came to a close.

4. The selection of forest or waste lands for reservation under the Forest Act, is also completed throughout the Circle, with the exception of a few localities in one taluka of the West Khándesh Division; but the work of demarcating upon the ground the sanctioned forest boundaries, by the erection of special forest boundary marks, still remains to be undertaken, more or less, and to a greater than to a lesser extent, in almost all the divisions of the Central Circle.

5. 28,193 special forest boundary marks were erected at a cost of Rs. 11,082 to define 1,730 linear miles of the forest boundaries during the year.

6. No new privileges upon the forests were granted to the people during the year; but some slight modifications were made in the North Tapti Privilege Code, under the authority of Government Resolution No. 2259, dated 28th March 1893, in the shape of a reduction in the scale of fees charged on bamboos.

7. The Forest Survey Party of the Government of India carried on its operations in the divisions of Poona and Sholapur only of the Central Circle; and the cost thereof during the forest year amounted to Rs. 31,082.

8. The Working Plans branch of the old Northern Circle was transferred to the new Northern Circle, and no Working Plans division has been created in the Central Circle; consequently there is nothing special to record under Working Plans, save that in all the divisions the differentiation of the forest areas into forest-blocks, and the sub-division of the latter into compartments, has been

started, and has made such considerable progress in some parts that compartments have been formed into coupes, which have been subjected to the exploitation of the timber, firewood, &c., they contained for trade purposes, and to meet the demands of local supply.

9. The number of forest offences for which prosecutions were instituted and disposed of by Magistrates came to 1,402; and that of cases compounded by the Divisional Forest Officers under Section 67 of the Forest Act, came to 9,647 during the fifteen months.

10. The number of cattle of different kinds impounded for trespassing into closed portions of forest reservations, as also for grazing without permits in open forests, numbered 381,459 during the forest year, against 334,640 in the preceding year of twelve months.

11. "Fire-conservancy" has received very close and considerable attention, and the results are on the whole satisfactory, and especially in the West Khândesh Division, although a comparison between the figures of 1891-92 and of 1892-93, may not appear to be so; but it should be remembered that the latter represent the results of two hot seasons.

12. The rainfall was seasonable in almost all the divisions of the Central Circle; and consequently reproduction, both natural and artificial, was generally fair and promising.

13. The financial results of the year were on the whole satisfactory; the net surplus amounting to Rs. 2,35,503.

14. Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth was in charge of the Central Circle throughout the year; and the following statement will show the names of superior Forest Officers who have been conducting the administration of the forests of the different divisions of the Central Circle, during the period of this report, and the stations they have occupied, with other particulars.

No.	Forest Division.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	Designation.	From	To	REMARKS.
1	East Khândesh.	Mr. F. R. Dasá	Deputy Conservator, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1892...	4th Aug. 1892.	
		" E. G. Oliver	Do. 4th Grade.	Do.	5th Aug. 1892...	15th Nov. 1892.	
		" R. H. Madan	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do.	16th Nov. 1892...	2nd May 1893.	
		" L. D. Joshi	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do.	3rd May 1893...	22nd do..	
		" E. G. Oliver	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do.	23rd do. ...	19th June 1893.	
		" R. H. Madan	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Extra Assistant Conservator 1st Grade.	Do.	20th June 1893...	30th do.	
		" B. H. Dalál	Do. 4th Grade.	Sub-division Forest Officer.	*20th June 1892.	14th Dec. 1892.	*New sub-division created from 20th June 1892.
		" L. D. Joshi	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do.	15th Dec. 1892.	†22nd May 1893.	†Sub-division office abolished on 22nd May 1893.
2	West Khândesh.	Mr. E. G. Oliver	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1892...	18th April 1893.	
		" R. H. Madan	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do.	19th April 1893...	1st May 1893.	
		" B. H. Dalál	Do. 4th Grade.	Do.	2nd May 1893...	18th do.	
		" E. G. Oliver	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do.	19th do. ...	30th June 1893.	
		" G. S. Hinge	Extra Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Sub-division Forest Officer.	1st April 1892...	12th April 1892.	
		" E. G. Oliver	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do.	13th do. ...	12th May 1892.	
		" G. S. Hinge	Extra Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do.	13th May 1892...	17th Dec. 1892.	
		" B. H. Dalál	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do.	18th Dec. 1892...	30th June 1893.	
3	Násik ...	Mr. W. G. Betham	Acting Deputy Conservator, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1892...	30th June 1893.	
		" W. A. Wallinger.	Extra Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Sub-division Officer.	Do. ...	1st Sept. 1892.	
		" W. R. Gaundé	Do. 1st Grade.	Do.	2nd Sept. 1892...	30th June 1893.	
4	Ahmednagar ...	Mr. A. D. Wilkins	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1892...	9th June 1892.	
		" S. Hornidge	Acting do. ...	Do.	10th June 1892...	30th June 1893.	